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Terms of Reference for

23 March 1953

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Subj ^{HO} SE- : Communist Reaction to a "Volunteer Freedom Corps"

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PROBLEM

To estimate the probable Communist reaction to the implementation of a "Volunteer Freedom Corps".

QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

- I. What factors, in connection with the implementation of a Volunteer Freedom Corps, would be most significant in determining the Communist reaction? The nature of the propaganda attending its implementation? The degree of success with which escapees were attracted? The particular nationalities or groups behind the Iron Curtain to whom the appeal for volunteers was directed? The nature of the aims and objectives of the Corps? The fact that it would be officered by Americans? ^{An} ~~The~~ offer of US citizenship eligibility? *Timing and term of service, and rate of pay?* The locale in which the Corps was activated, or stationed? The enthusiasm, or lack of enthusiasm, with which US allies supported the project? Other factors?
- II. Would the USSR consider the implementation of such a project a "provocative" act? If so, how provocative? Would the Kremlin consider the implementation of the VFC as providing evidence of any significant new trend in US policy? Would the Kremlin consider the VFC a significant threat to its own policies or its own security?

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Would it consider that the VFC constituted a means for significantly threatening the loyalty of satellite governments, or of undermining security in satellite countries? Would the Kremlin take the project seriously?

- III. What courses of action would be open to the Kremlin for hindering or frustrating the implementation of the VFC? Intensified measures against escapees? Diplomatic representations to the US, and/or to US allies? Other measures? Infiltration?
- IV. What would be the most likely courses of action for the Kremlin to take in the event that the VFC was formed? What would the satellite governments be likely to do?
- V. If for any reason the VFC were not a success, could its failure be utilized to the profit of Communist world policies? How?

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